

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1651, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

BIKINI RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2368) to assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2368

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRUST FUND AMOUNTS.

Three percent of the market value as of June 1, 1999, of the Resettlement Trust Fund for the People of Bikini, established pursuant to Public Law 97-257, shall be made available for immediate ex gratia distribution to the people of Bikini, provided such distribution does not reduce the corpus of the trust fund. The amount of such distribution shall be deducted from any additional ex gratia payments that may be made by the Congress into the Resettlement Trust Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2368, the Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act of 1999 is an important measure to help the relocation and resettlement of the people of the Bikini Atoll. This community was displaced during the time of United States nuclear testing in the Pacific, and while the U.S. was the administering authority for the islands under the United Nations' Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In the 1982, Congress established a Resettlement Trust Fund for the benefit of the Bikinians. H.R. 2368 would authorize a one-time 3 percent distribution from the Resettlement Trust Fund for relocation and resettlement assistance primarily for the remaining senior citizens of the Bikini Atoll, 3 percent of \$126 million, or \$3.7 million.

This will not require any appropriation of any funds by the U.S. Congress, and will not diminish the original corpus of the Resettlement Trust Fund of \$110 million.

These funds will provide relocation assistance now to the surviving 90 members of Bikini who were removed from their home island, as it may still take years to complete radiological restoration of the atoll to permit safe habitation.

The bill also responds to the resolution of the Bikini Council requesting this legislative action by Congress. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this act would authorize a one-time 3 percent distribution from the resettlement fund for the people of Bikini established by Congress in 1982 for relocation and resettlement assistance primarily for the remaining senior citizens of Bikini Atoll.

The odyssey of the Bikini people is a very sad one, indeed. They were moved off their atoll in March of 1946 by the U.S. Navy to facilitate the U.S. nuclear testing program. They were first moved to Rongerik, an uninhabited atoll some 100 miles east of Bikini. Naval officials stated that Rongerik was bigger and richer than Bikini, but it turned out that the move was ill-conceived and poorly planned.

Contrary to the Navy's assertions, Rongerik's land area is one-quarter of the size of Bikini, and its life-sustaining pandanus and coconut trees were considerably less productive than those of Bikini.

The situation on Rongerik steadily deteriorated over the next 2 years. In July of 1947, a medical officer who visited the atoll reported that the Bikinians were visibly suffering from malnutrition. Several sites for another relocation were explored, but none proved satisfactory.

However, when a Navy physician examined the Bikinians in March of 1948 and found them to be a starving people, emergency measures were called for and the Bikinians were immediately evacuated to the Navy base at Kwajalein Atoll. As early as 1948, as the official Navy history of the Trust Territory notes, "Definite physiological scars were left on the people." The consequences of their two relocations, 2 years on Rongerik and nearly 8 months on Kwajalein, were already abundantly evident.

In less than 3 years, the once self-sufficient people had been transformed into dependent wards of the United States. Their very existence had been threatened, and the little confidence that they had in themselves was diminished.

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The third relocation of the Bikinians occurred in November of 1948 when the community was moved to Kili Island some 400 miles south of Bikini. Although Kili receives more rainfall than Bikini and has richer soils, it is an island, a high island, not an atoll, and it is about one-ninth the land area of Bikini.

It has neither lagoon, sheltered fishing ground, protected anchorage, nor good beaches. Instead, a flat reef shelf forms around the circumference of the island and drops abruptly to great depths. As a result, it is virtually inaccessible by sea from November to May, when tradewinds cause heavy surf to pound the shore.

This drastic change from an atoll existence, with its abundant fish and islands as far as the eye could see, to an isolated island with no lagoon and inaccessible marine resources, took a severe physiological toll on the Bikini people.

Since their arrival there in 1948, the Bikinians have compared Kili to a jail. The elders sorely miss the ability to move about an atoll, engage in fishing expeditions across the lagoon or in the open sea, and sail to other islands. At Bikini, much of men's lives had centered about their sailing canoes, and they spent many hours working together on them. These sailing canoes had to be abandoned on Kili, and the Bikinians have lost virtually all their sailing and fishing skills.

Today, 53 years after their move from Bikini, less than half the "elders" who were moved off originally in 1946 are still alive. The radiological cleanup and resettlement of Bikini is at least a decade away, and will cost at least several hundred million dollars, and the numerous relocations of the people have had severe consequences.

The Bikinians did not desire relocation in 1946, but they believed they had no alternative but to comply with the wishes of the United States.

Much of the Bikinians' culture and society and identity are rooted in their ancestral home: the islands, reefs, and lagoon of Bikini Atoll. The people's identity, the very essence of their perceptions of themselves, is intimately tied to their home atoll.

The system of land rights provided much of the underlying structure for the organization of the community. Short of loss of life itself, the loss of their ancestral homeland represented the worst calamity imaginable for the Bikinian people.

The confinement of the Bikini people to Kili has deprived them of most of the activities and pleasures that they enjoy at Bikini Atoll.

The people of Bikini gave the United States everything they had, their land and their home. They demanded nothing in return. They asked only that the United States care for them until their

land had served its purpose and could be returned to them. The United States promised that it would do so, but some 53 years later, and 41 years after the last nuclear test at Bikini, the Bikinians are still not home. They lived up to their side of the deal, and the people of the free world did well by them.

They made contributions to the victory and the Cold War that many other peoples did not. The tests in the Marshall Islands cost hundreds of billions of dollars, but we never questioned their value because these nuclear tests assured U.S. nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union and saved billions of dollars in defense spending.

As the Atomic Energy Commission reported to Congress in 1953, "Each of the tests involved a major expenditure of money, manpower, scientific effort, and time. Nevertheless, in accelerating the rate of weapons development, they saved far more than their costs."

In an attempt to assist the people of Bikini, we provided funding for their Resettlement Trust Fund in 1982. Those funds have been well invested, and it is only appropriate for us to support a one-time 3 percent distribution to the heads of household, with the understanding that the Bikini elders will be the primary beneficiaries.

Thanks to sound investment decisions, this trust fund has earned almost 14 percent annually since 1982, so a 3 percent distribution will not require an appropriation of funds by Congress nor will it diminish the original corpus of the trust.

I want to say on a personal note that this especially goes out to the family of Ralph Waltz who was a Peace Corps volunteer on Kili Atoll and who was personal witness to this. Mr. Waltz has since passed away, but he was a very good friend of mine, and he first brought me to these issues that are attendant to the plight of the Bikini people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for yielding this time to me to say a few words concerning this piece of legislation. I do thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) for his management of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2368, a bill to assist the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of a Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. Speaker, 53 years ago, we removed the residents of Bikini Atoll from their home to conduct atomic and nuclear weapons tests. Between 1946 and 1958, we conducted well over 23 such tests, which made the Atoll un-

inhabitable. In 1968, we told the former residents it was safe to return to the Atoll only to remove them again in 1979 because radiation levels were still far in excess of Federal standards.

Mr. Speaker, today the remaining nine residents of Bikini in 1946 who are still alive, and some of the descendants of the other 158 people of the atoll, are still living in a temporary location 400 miles from their true home.

Mr. Speaker, in an effort to partially compensate the residents of Bikini for all the injury and suffering the United States has caused them, it is only reasonable that Congress establish a trust fund in 1982, and a total of \$110 million has been appropriated for the fund. The fund has been well managed, and the market value of the fund is now approximately \$126 million. H.R. 2368 authorizes a one-time distribution of 3 percent of the value of the trust, which will go primarily to the elders of this group.

Mr. Speaker, I have taken to this floor many times over the years to advocate that the United States devote more of its resources to this problem, especially as it deals with the good people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This is only a small part of the mess we created by conducting atomic and nuclear atmospheric tests in the Pacific.

The residents of the Bikini and other atolls of the Pacific have been forced to make considerable sacrifices so that our Nation could remain militarily strong, and I find it highly offensive that we have not addressed this problem forthrightly.

Even today, Mr. Speaker, we do not have a plan to clean up and resettle the atoll, and it is estimated that cleanup and resettlement will take 10 years, 10 more years, Mr. Speaker. We can, and we should be doing better than that.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), our ranking Democrat of the committee, and their staffs for moving this bill as quickly as they have. This is important to the former residents of Bikini and shows that this authorizing committee can act in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Bikinians would have liked to have seen this provision in the fiscal year 2000 Interior appropriations bill, but with today's action in the House and a little luck in the Senate, they may get their money just as quickly as following regular authorizing procedures. I support this bill and believe we have a moral obligation to do much more than this.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to commend the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) for his tireless efforts and tremendous leadership to assist his fellow Pacific Island community.

Again, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have cosponsored this legislation with Chair-

man YOUNG which directs the Secretary of Interior to distribute 3% of interest made from the Resettlement Trust Fund for the People of Bikini to surviving Bikini elders. This payment will be a one time only payment and comes from interest made, does not need an additional appropriation, and will not effect the original corpus of the fund.

To facilitate the US nuclear testing program, the people of Bikini were moved off their islands in 1946. Between 1946 and 1958, the U.S. government detonated 23 atomic and hydrogen bombs at Bikini Atoll, including the March 1, 1954 Bravo shot, the largest nuclear test ever conducted by the United States. Our treatment of the people directly affected by these tests has not always been forthright and just. Much information about the test shots was kept from the Marshallese until I was able to persuade the Bush Administration to finally release DOE documents to the Marshall Islands Government. While this process has been slow, it has resulted in thousands of pages of new information released.

In 1982 Congress established the Resettlement Trust Fund to assist the people of Bikini, "for the relocation and resettlement of the Bikini People in the Marshall Islands, principally on Kili and Ejit Islands." Congress appropriated additional funds in 1988 into the trust and modified its terms to provide that monies could also be "expended for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Bikini Atoll."

The people of Bikini have maintained the fiscal integrity of the Resettlement Trust Fund since its inception. They have hired U.S. banks as trustees and well respected investment advisors and money managers. The Trust has averaged a nearly 14% annual return since inception and has permitted the Bikini community to provide for scholarships, health care, food programs, housing electrical power, construction, maintenance and repairs on the islands of Kili and Ejit, as well as infrastructure, cleanup and resettlement activities on Bikini Atoll. Through prudent management and voluntary restrictions on the use of the corpus by the people of Bikini, the market value of the Resettlement Trust Fund today is approximately \$125 million.

Throughout this most tumultuous time, the elders of the community have remained the solid base for all the people of Bikini. This one time payment is being made at the request of the Bikini community based, in part, on the reality that resettlement of the atoll is unlikely during the lifetime of the elders. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2368, the Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act of 1999. I fully support the request of the Bikini Council to have a one-time 3% distribution from the Resettlement Trust fund to assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll.

In 1946, our country made the decision to test nuclear weapons in the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. This difficult decision, during World War II, created a negative situation for the Bikini Atoll. This environmental catastrophe still exists, over thirty years later. The people of Bikini Atoll have been relocated twice since the Island was polluted with nuclear residue during the nuclear testing that started in 1946.

I commend our government's recognition of the devastation caused during this testing period and I commend our efforts to restore this magnificent Island so its citizens can return to their homes. Unfortunately, it appears another 10 years is necessary to guarantee the return of the Bikini people to an environmentally safe home.

Traditionally, the people of Bikini Atoll have administered the Resettlement Trust Fund in a commendable manner. I fully support the Council's decision to make available 3% percent of the market value of the Resettlement Trust Fund for immediate ex gratia distribution to the people of Bikini. The culture and tradition of the people of Bikini pay special homage to the seniors of the communities. It is anticipated that the senior citizens of Bikini, many who will not have an opportunity to return to the Island and their homeland because of the length of clean-up time, may be the primary beneficiaries of this distribution.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the enactment of the bill would have no impact on the federal budget. Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, I urge that we continue to support the restoration of Bikini Island and resettlement of its citizens.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the Bikini Resettlement and Relocation Act of 1999, H.R. 2368, is an important measure to help the relocation and resettlement of the people of Bikini Atoll. This community was displaced during the time of United States nuclear testing in the Pacific and while the U.S. was the administering authority for the islands under the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Congress continues to have responsibility for the trust funds that were established during the trusteeship for the resettlement and relocation of certain island communities, including Bikini Atoll.

The Committee on Resources conducted a Congressional pre-hearing briefing on May 10th and a hearing on May 11th, 1999, on the status of nuclear claims, relocation and resettlement efforts in the Marshall Islands. During the hearing process, the elected representative of the people of Bikini presented the Kili/Bikini/Ejit Local Government Council's May 12, 1999 Resolution, asking Congress to support a one-time 3% distribution from the Resettlement Trust Fund, which is used both for the cleanup of Bikini and for the ongoing needs of the Bikini people. In addition, the Marshall Islands Government expressed unqualified support for the Bikini request. Congress established the Resettlement Trust Fund in 1982 pursuant to P.L. 97-257 and appropriated additional funds in 1988 pursuant to P.L. 100-446.

I introduced H.R. 2368 jointly with the Ranking Minority Member GEORGE MILLER of the Committee on Resources on June 29, 1999, to respond to the request of the Bikini community and the government of the Marshall Islands. My statement of introduction appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on that date with the text of the Kili/Bikini/Ejit Local Government Council's May 12, 1999 Resolution on June 29, 1999 H.R. 2368 would:

Authorize a one-time 3% distribution from the Resettlement Trust Fund for relocation and resettlement assistance primarily for the remaining senior citizens of Bikini Atoll [3% of

\$126 million or \$3.7 million]; not require an appropriation of any funds by the U.S. Congress; not diminish the original corpus of the Resettlement Trust Fund [\$110 million]; provide relocation assistance now to the surviving 90 members of Bikini who were removed from their home island, as it may still take years to complete radiological restoration of the atoll to permit safe habitation; and respond to the resolution of the Bikini Council requesting this legislative action by Congress.

The Bikinians, for their part, have ensured the fiscal integrity of the Resettlement Trust Fund. They have selected reputable U.S. banks as trustees, hired well-respected and talented investment advisors and money managers, and provided for routine monthly financial statements and annual audits. Due to the Bikini Council's voluntary restraint on the use of these funds, and the success of the fund managers, the corpus remains intact, the trust fund has earned almost 14% annually, every dollar has been accounted for, annual audits are prepared, and monthly financial statements are sent to the Interior Department.

In light of the strength of the trust, its fiscal integrity, the lengthy time a cleanup and restoration will take, and the special circumstances of the elders, the Bikinians wish to make a one-time 3% distribution from the Resettlement Trust Fund, with the understanding that the primary beneficiaries of the distribution will be the 90 surviving Bikini elders. Because of the excellent management of the trust fund, such a distribution will not require an appropriation of funds by Congress, nor will it diminish the original corpus of the trust.

The authorization in H.R. 2368 for the people of Bikini is appropriate and consistent with the desires of the community of Bikini and congressional intent for the resettlement of the people whose lives and homes were disrupted by U.S. testing. This measure assists some of the people of the former Trust Territory community administered by the United States, who we still maintain relations through a Compact of Free Association. Without any additional cost to the U.S. taxpayer, Congress can be responsive to the remaining senior Bikini elders' resettlement and relocation efforts.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2368.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 898) designating certain land in the San Isabel National Forest in the State of Colorado as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 898

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS.

(a) COLORADO WILDERNESS ACT.—Section 2(a) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77; 107 Stat. 756; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(20) SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS.—Certain land in the San Isabel National Forest that—

"(A) comprises approximately 18,000 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Proposed Spanish Peaks Wilderness', dated February 10, 1999; and

"(B) shall be known as the 'Spanish Peaks Wilderness'."

(b) MAP; BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—

(1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary"), shall file a map and boundary description of the area designated under subsection (a) with—

(A) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and boundary description under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77; 107 Stat. 756), except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and boundary description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and boundary description under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 3. ACCESS.

Within the Spanish Peaks Wilderness designated under section 2—

(1) the Secretary shall allow the continuation of historic uses of the Bulls Eye Mine Road established prior to the date of enactment of this Act, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may provide; and

(2) access to any privately owned land within the wilderness areas designated under section 2 shall be provided in accordance with section 5 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134 et seq.).

SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 10 of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-77; 107 Stat. 756; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.